

1620, when the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock, to give the old ruin on Newport common as great a value in the eye of every true hearted American, as the CATT STANE can claim from the British antiquary who believes that its rude letters record the burial-place of Vetta son of Victus, son of Woden, the lineal ancestor of Hengist, the Teutonic colonist of England.

A picturesque old relic, known *par excellence* as The Old House of Boston, stood till 1860 at the corner of North and Market Streets of the New England Capital, with its quaint gables, and overhanging oaken-timbered walls, such as abound in the old capitals of Europe, and look as if they had been built before the laws of gravitation had a being. The date latterly assigned to it was 1680; but the march of improvement knows no antiquarian sympathies; and a range of modern warehouses has usurped the site of the venerable civic relic. Here and there among the burial grounds of New England and other older States, weathered and half-defaced stones commemorate the worth of early colonists; and doubtless some lie buried, where they may be found in other ages, when the Roman characters and English language of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries will seem as strange to the eyes of a new generation as the runes of the Greenland Norsemen do to our own. But a recent discovery towards the northern limits of the New England States suffices to encourage the hope that still earlier traces of the first European colonists may yet gratify intelligent curiosity with glimpses of the beginnings of America's history. This new found historical footprint of the seventeenth century, only brought to light in the autumn of 1863, is a plate of copper measuring ten inches by eight, found at Castine, in the State of Maine,—the old Indian Pentagoet,—near the mouth of the Penobscot river, famous with the Kennebunk, or Kennebec, as it is now called, as marches of the French and English debateable land, subsequent to the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. It was discovered in the course of excavations made in constructing a battery at the mouth of Castine harbour.* The corroded sheet of copper attracted no attention when first restored to light; nor was it till its discoverer had cut a piece off it to repair a boat, that his attention was drawn to the characters engraved on its surface. Fortunately the detached piece was easily recovered; and on being restored to its place, the inscription was decyphered as follows:

* *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, April, 1864. p. 60.